

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206
www.scdhhs.gov
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MEDICAID BULLETIN

TO: Medicaid Providers of Environmental Modifications

SUBJECT: Change in Ramp Specifications for Community Long Term Care Waivers

Effective September 1, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will change the specifications for building ramps in the Community Long Term Care waiver programs. These modifications include new requirements for all ramp construction. There will no longer be separate requirements for heavy duty and regular ramps.

Attached, please find the new specifications for ramp construction. These modifications can also be found in Section 2 of the Community Long Term Care Manual at <http://www.scdhhs.gov/internet/pdf/manuals/cltc/section%202.pdf>. Payment is contingent upon meeting these specifications. In addition to changes in ramp construction, the ramp completion form available in the Phoenix system has been revised to reflect pricing changes.

If you have questions concerning the above information, please call Tim Herbkersman at (803) 413-5192. Thank you for your continued participation in the South Carolina Medicaid Program.

/s/
Anthony E. Keck
Director

Attachment

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
General Ramp Specifications
Effective September 1, 2012

The general ramp specifications below should not replace or diminish any local, state, or national codes. These standards were created using a summary of information from the International Building Code (2010 Edition), ICC, ANSI A117.1 1998 and ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

General Notes:

- Permits are the responsibility of the provider.
- Ramps are to be firm, stable, slip resistant and safe.
- Ramps and landings with drop offs will have a minimum 4" curb and railings.
- Ramps will be built using pressure (weather) treated lumber.
- **Please advise clients that ramps need to be treated/weatherproofed annually.**
- Ramps and landings are measured by the **clear** space provided; 56"x56" landings will not be counted as 5' x 5' landings and will be re-built.
- No toe-nailing of railings between posts.
- **All screws will be pre-drilled with pilot holes to prevent splitting.**
- **There is no designation between heavy duty and regular ramps.**

General Materials:

- 4x4 posts
- 2x6 (min.) joists
- 2x6 or 5/4x6 decking
- 2x4 (min.) **curbing**, top, and top support rail
- **2x2 pickets**
- **1 1/4" galvanized pipes (fence top rails) are to be used as handrails with galvanized "C" clamps and PVC caps.**
- 2x4x4" or 2x4x6 handrail spacers
- **3" ring-shanked exterior nails and 3" and 2 1/2" decking screws**
- 2500 PSI cement

Foundations:

- Posts must be a minimum 4x4 CCA lumber.
- Posts must be sunk a minimum **12"** into the ground and set in concrete (min. 25lbs).
- Exception – if post is set on cement walkway or driveway, post may be anchored with a post base attached to the cement, **and/or** cross- braced for stability.
- Foundation posts are to be set no more than 8' apart.
- **Set the final post back 8" from the end of the ramp.**

Floor Framing:

- Outside joists shall consist of 2x6 (min) lumber connected to the foundation posts.
- Inside joists shall be 2 x 6 (min) and shall be connected to the foundation posts using a header board and proper joist hangers.
- There shall be no more than 16" between joists.
- There shall be four total joists: (2) inside and (2) outside.
- All framing will be attached with 3" ring-shanked nails or 3" decking screws.
- The 1st three decking boards at either end of the ramp must be attached with screws.

Slopes:

- All landings must be level (slope no greater than 1:50)
- All cross slopes must not exceed 1:50
- Ramps will have a maximum slope of 1:12 with few exceptions.
- In the RARE case a steeper slope is needed, the following will apply:
 - A 1:10 slope is permitted for no more than a 6" rise.
 - A 1:8 slope is permitted for no more than a 3" rise.

Ramps:

- Shall not rise more than 30" between landings.
- Shall lead to a firm stable landing, provider is responsible for the area at the end of a ramp.
- **The ramp will be finished with concrete a minimum of 1" deep, 12" long, and the width of the ramp to aid in transition to the ground.**
- Shall be level with a cross slope of no more than 1:50
- Shall have a clear width of 41".
- With a drop off of more than 2" shall have a minimum 4" curb.
- Shall allow for water to run off and not collect.
- Must be slip resistant (floor areas painted with a non-slip paint).
- Must use 2'x6" or 5/4"x6" as decking.
- Ramps are not to be built attached to the house unless necessary (2' spacing).
- Ramps for clients using stretchers should avoid turns and be angled if possible.
- **The end of the ramp will be finished with concrete.**

Landings (general):

- Must be level – slope less than 1:50, must be stable and slip resistant.
- Landing will have pickets.
- Landings must have top rail, **top support rail**, and curbing.
- Must be at least 60" x 60" **clear** space if the ramp changes direction.
- "Straight through" landings must be the width of the ramp and 5' long.

- “Switchback landings” will be at least 60”x 96” **clear** space.
- **Joists will be no more than 16” apart.**

Landings at doorways:

- Shall have no more than a ½” beveled threshold between landing and interior floor.
- Must have a minimum 18” + of clear space past the latch side of the door (24” preferred).
- Will at a minimum have 60” x 60” clear space.
- Railings are required for drop offs of more than 2”.
- Must not be positioned in such a way as to expose people to the danger of falling, **i.e. railings blocking exposed steps.**

Handrails:

- **Will be made from 1 ¼” galvanized pipes (fence top rail) with support blocking every 5’.** Poles come in 10’ lengths and are tapered to fit together.
- **Blocking will be screwed into the top rail.**
- **Shall be attached to blocking with galvanized “C” clamps and glued on PVC caps.**
- Shall run parallel to the floor of the landing or ramp.
- Shall be continuous on both sides.
- **Shall extend 6” past the end of the last block, but not past the end of the ramp.**
- Shall have a 1 ½” clearance between handrail and top rail and any wall.
- Shall be between 34” and 38” high.
- Shall not rotate within its fittings; **drill a screw into galvanized pipes at every block.**
- Must be able to withstand **350 Lbs.** of pressure.

Top rails, side rails, and curbing:

- **All lumber above the floor level is to be attached using decking screws.**
- Top rail must have a side support rail on the inside of the ramp.
- All rails shall be attached on the inside of the ramp to the 4x4 posts (no toe- nailing between posts).
- **2x2 pickets will be placed no more than 4” apart, will be pre-drilled and installed with a 2 ½” decking screw, a 2x4 will be substituted for the last picket at the end of the ramp.**
- **Pickets will be screwed into the top rail, curbing, and the ramp frame.** Brad nailing pickets into place before screwing can save time.
- Curbing shall be attached on the inside of the ramp to the 4x4 posts (no toe- nailing between posts) and be **2”** off the ramp.